

Director of Central Intelligence
Rm. 7D-60 Hqs.

Att: DD/A 75-5465

Sir:

In view of your interest in the Foreign
Affairs Executive Seminar, I thought it
appropriate for you to send a letter to
Mr. Robert S. Ingersoll, Chairman, NSC Under
Secretaries Committee.

STATO John F. Blake, DDA 7D-26 Hqs. [REDACTED]

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EO-DDA [REDACTED] (17 Nov 75)

Att: Ltr to Robert S. Ingersoll, Chmn., NSC Under Secretaries Committee dated
re termination of Foreign Affairs Executive Seminar
Approved For Release 2002/02/11 : CIA-RDP77-00512R000100040137-3

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20 November 1975

The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Henry,

I am writing to suggest that you review the decision of the Department of State to terminate the Foreign Affairs Executive Seminar. I gather this decision is based upon the findings of the Board of Professional Development of the Department of State, the main factor apparently being the difficulty of securing Foreign Service Officer and other State personnel as participants, leading to a high unit cost for the individual State Department officers who attend.

A couple of years ago, this Agency displayed a somewhat similar lack of enthusiasm for this seminar. I put some of my personal time and effort into encouraging participation in the seminar because I felt it made a unique contribution which cannot be found in other training efforts. It is, in effect, a three-week interagency foreign affairs familiarization course. In the three weeks, it does much of the interagency familiarization that one otherwise gets out of a full-year National War College or State Senior Seminar course. I believe it has been particularly effective in preparing officers of the various services, the FSO's and FSR's, the military and CIA [REDACTED] and similar missions where they participate in their first interagency team. I believe the course's improvement in their understanding of the functions and objectives of the other agencies goes far to remove parochialism and to create a sense of unity [REDACTED] STATINTL

The alternative to terminating the seminar because of the lack of FSO and State participants would be the development of a program to stimulate more of them. I commend this to your attention as a better way of solving the problem and keeping alive a most useful seminar. In any case, I strongly urge that the FAES be continued at least for the balance of this fiscal year, which will provide time for a more in-depth review and tailoring of a substitute course, if indeed that is indicated. STATINTL

Sincerely,

B. C.



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